

ROCKLAND FINANCE COMMITTEE
ROCKLAND TOWN HALL
ROCKLAND, MA 02370

January 27, 2010

In attendance at the January 27, 2010 Finance Committee meeting were Bill Allen, Rachel Gear, John Ellard, Rich Penney, Bob MacDonald, Joe Gambon, Dolores Baronas, Ian Curran, Caryn Stevens, Julie Shaffer and Paula Ferguson.

The meeting was brought to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairman John Ellard.

A motion was made by Bill Allen and seconded by Rich Penney to accept the minutes from the January 13, 2010 meeting. A unanimous vote was taken.

Library: Beverly Brown from the Library presented her budget. She indicated that library supplies includes materials, book, CDs, jacket covers, labeling and packaging. Their budget is supplemented by state aid. They need to stay certified. They are currently open 41 hours, five days a week with two evenings. For Fiscal Year 2009, they needed a waiver. For Fiscal Year 2010, they still need a waiver because the minimum needed for the budget is still not met. The Trustees will need to do a fund raiser for additional funding for books. Fines for late books currently goes into the general fund, approximately \$10,000. They are considering a revolving account for late fees. Staffing currently includes 6 full time, 5 part time and 2 subs. December was a slow month with only 4500 people utilizing the library. Their telephone carrier is currently Broadview. The \$5000 that was put in the budget last year prior to the over-ride is currently there, whereas the Park Department had to spend what was in their budget amount before the over-ride.

School: Superintendent John Rechless, Assistant Superintendent Doric Scarpelli and Chairman of the Budget Subcommittee Michael Mullen presented the school budget. Currently there is one computer teacher. There are still staffing needs. Their current budget is not a restoration budget. \$14 million of their budget is salary. The salaries increase with experience and increased education (steps). 2% of the budget is for the steps and lanes plus the cost of living and inflation. \$500,000-\$900,000 is currently spend on Special Education. The Over-ride and salary freeze eliminated the need for staff cuts for the first time in eight years. Two proposals were presented to the School Committee a 1.5% increase with no allowance for emergency maintenance, limited new technology purchases and use of remaining stimulus funds for a total of \$19,267,832. The second proposal is to level fund all lines with funding for Professional development increases and emergency maintenance and include funds for boiler replacement and increased in SPED tuitions with an increase of 2.3% or a total of \$19,419,696. The School Committee opted for the 2.3% or \$436,610 increase. Chapter 70 money is currently said to be \$400,000 more if it stays were predicted but time will tell. We currently spend approximately \$10,000 per student. Currently 45 students per year go to vocational schools. There is very little money in the maintenance line item of the school budget. Special projects are grant driven. There is tenure for teachers after 3 years. Health care is not in the school budget but in the town budget for all teachers. Retirement is not through the town for teachers. A concern is made as to the Health Insurance Budget needing to increase an additional \$600,000.

Highway: Robert Corvi presented his budget. His line item of street striping has increased and also includes signs for streets and stop signs, etc. He currently has five guys working at the Highway

Department. He has the lower budget on the South Shore. Asphalt has decreased to \$64.00 per ton. The Eagles have paid for work performed in the down town area with cross walks, etc. Residents can pay for street signs if they want. Chapter 90 money, the state allocates approximately \$300,000 per year which can be carried over to the next years. It cost \$400,000 to pave Spring and Beech Streets. The highway equipment is currently approximately 12 years old.

Snow and Ice: We have eight plow routes. We hire 30 pieces of equipment. There is one town truck with each group working as a unit. There is 113 miles of road in Rockland. Bob does the hiring and firing. DPU is used to set the pay rates.

Tree Department: We currently have one employee on the Tree Department. He can work one day a year with the truck and bucket truck which is \$1600 per day which is all that is in that line item. As of January 1, 2010, OSHA regulations are imposed which doesn't allow the employee to work by himself making it difficult as he is a department of one.

Under Other Business: Bob MacDonald resigned his position as Vice Chairman due to health reasons. A motion was made by Rachel Gear and seconded by Bill Allen to accept his resignation. A unanimous vote was taken. A motion was made by Bob MacDonald and seconded by Ian Curran to nominate Joe Gambon as Vice Chairman. A unanimous vote was made.

Paula reminded everyone to pass in the Ethic's Certification and all were received except Rich Penney and Ian Curran.

Under Other Committee Reports: The School Building Committee was reported on by Rich Penney. There was a presentation with the pros and cons of Project Labor Agreements and Union and Non-Union shops may bid. From the PLA, the help would have to be from a Union Shop. A Non-PLA allows union and non-union members. It allows more trades to bid on the job. The Building Committee will take a vote on February 4, 2010. The project may not even qualify for the PLA criteria.

Capital Planning will be discussed at our next meeting along with Fiscal Guidelines.

Our next two meetings were set for February 10 and February 24, 2010.

A motion to adjourn was made by Joe Gambon and seconded by Bill Allen. A unanimous vote was taken and the meeting ended at 8:55 p.m.

Sincerely,

Paula Ferguson
Secretary
Rockland Finance Committee

Total in Reserve Fund: \$35,000